



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Bruce Rauner, Governor

June 22, 2016

The Honorable John Cullerton
Senate President
327 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear President Cullerton:

The Coal Development Act (20 ILCS /1105/8) requires the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (Department) to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly outlining the status of the Coal program.

Unfortunately, due to the deficit in the FY15 budget passed by the General Assembly, the Department's Office of Coal Development was suspended midway through FY15. The program remained suspended through FY16 due to the lack of a balanced budget and capital re-appropriations. These suspensions impact the Coal Technology Development Assistance Fund (Capital) and the Coal Development Fund.

The Coal Technology Development Assistance Fund comes from 1/64th of the electricity excise tax passed through from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and would typically support competitive research and development and marketing grants. The Coal Development Fund comes from General Obligation (GO) bond authority to support Coal Demonstration grants.

Although the programs remain suspended without a balanced budget and a comprehensive capital re-appropriation bill, it is possible that the Coal Development program can be restored in future budget years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean McCarthy".

Sean McCarthy
Acting Director